

New Bedford April 29<sup>th</sup> 1849.

Dear Deborah,

Had I not been daily expecting to hear from you I should have answered your previous letter long since, and now I will endeavor to answer them both, which the boys say is "Killing two birds with one stone". Although I confess there is much pleasure in anticipation, yet I think that the reality sometimes at least is pleasanter, and have no doubt but that your long anticipated visit in June will really prove so. Perhaps on many accounts it will be pleasanter, as the weather will be warmer and milder and we can ride and visit the many rural haunts we used to in times of yore. I can now call back to my mind the many rides we had when you and Caroline, Fanny and the little lisping boy, with Barrecca and his companion Silver Mare, travelled along the high ways and bye ways of life so merrily. Many changes have indeed taken place since then, but those pleasant times will never be effaced! how pleasant it will be to sit down & talk of these; how <sup>many</sup> ~~infinitely~~ the little incidents that will be summoned forth from the abyss of time. Greater will be the satisfaction to talk than to write about them, and yet I could not help making some slight allusion, for they are as it were distinctly visible to my mind's eye.



Facts I am well aware are stubborn things and yet you were always desirous to have them. Within one year there has more things transpired than even has come within my knowledge in the same time. In addition to the many deaths which took place last year, there has one of our first citizens Mr. Jives Perry departed this life a few weeks since. He was sick but a few weeks and died much regretted. He has left property to the amount of about \$200,000, to be equally divided among his five children. I think I informed you that since the old colored woman that lived with Mr. Thornton died during the winter. One of my cousins, John Brown of Philadelphia died about three weeks since. Not only are people moving to California, but there is a strong tendency to move in our immediate vicinity. Mr. Leonard Macomber has sold his house to Abraham Barker, & Gilbert Thornton will move in there in the course of a week or so; Mr. Macomber has taken a farm near Dorchester & will go there next week. Virginia & William Sewall, moved yesterday to the Cottage next South of Mr. Thornton's, formerly occupied by Samuel Brown. And I myself talk some of building a house on William St opposite to Mr. Emerson, I move in the Fall, Ferdinand Bassant, whom you will probably recollect, & who has been assistant Secy of the Bedford Commercial Insurance Company, has proved himself a defaulter to that Institution to the amount of Fifteen thousand dollars.



It was not suspected till a few weeks since, when  
the Directors of which I am one appointed a  
Committee to investigate the accounts for the  
time some 5 or 6 years he has been there, and  
made him debtor for that amount. They gave  
him a week to explain away matters and  
the week will end on Tuesday; thus far he has  
given no satisfaction & probably will not - I am  
sorry for him; he is a clever fellow & I do not think  
he meant to defraud the Company; he has  
been engaged in Speculations & disappointed in his  
remittances, which if he had received would  
have replaced - it was a breach of trust, for he had  
no right to use it - It is now uncertain whether  
the Company will lose, he has some property, which  
is made over to them - will pay unless there should  
prove other claims on it. He owed Edward R. Anthony  
so much that he has resigned his office as Cashier in  
Savannah & will go to California in a few weeks.  
Mr Anthony books as Cashier have all been  
examined & found correct & the Directors imme-  
diately chose him again but he declined - there  
is not the least blame attached to him, and  
everyone pities him - William Whitridge has  
gone back to Norwich to live with his wife again  
Lucy Ann Whitridge has fallen in love with a young  
Lieutenant & gone off with him to Berwick, but  
whether to get married or not the deponent doubts  
not - the family are all very sad about it, as  
I understand he is very dissipated - having been



once in the Watch House <sup>here</sup> for being intoxicated in the evening  
and also once in Jail here for debt. She will not  
listen to the advice of any one, but is bent on having her  
I wish you were going to be here this week: we are  
going to have the "Germanian Band" give two  
concerts on Thursday & Friday evening. These  
have been got up by subscription, they agree  
to come if 400 tickets were taken at 50cts each.  
It is the best band ever been in this County,  
far surpassing the Slegemarkische & Gungel.  
Did you not see an account in the Standard  
of this week of a slave having escaped from  
the South to a city in New England, it was copied  
from the Tribune which took it from a Vermont  
paper. The said slave came consigned to me  
about three weeks since from S. H. Gay who received  
him from J. McKim Philada. As you may not have  
heard of it & the story is so interesting, I will send you  
a copy of the letter I rec'd with the consignment. The  
man appears to be a fine fellow, has found considerable  
employment - he has worked several days  
for me & if I commence manufacturing, &c. again  
I think I can give him constant employment.  
Noble as was the sentiment uttered by Patrick Henry,  
"Give liberty or give me Death," how much noble  
and more difficult was the carrying out the  
spirit of the sentiment in the case of this man.  
Every one that hears of it or sees him are astonished  
they all glorify in it & I think will have a strong  
tendency to cement the Anti Slavery feeling here.



only are <sup>ap 29, 49</sup> Man, and he an ex divine of the Orthodox  
School, Pardon I Seabury doubtless the veracity of  
the story as Mr Robeson informed<sup>me</sup>; but he no longer  
doubts, for as we were standing at the Post Office  
last Friday, the Man came along and I inform  
him Mr Seabury of it; it was "proem facie" evidence  
Orthodoxy stood abashed: God's image in an ebony Case  
confronted it too strongly; what says he; you don't  
mean "that Nigger"; yes says I, there is the Hero; well  
I'll give up says he. Were it not for exposing the  
express I would call a town meeting and  
show him up. His name is Henry <sup>Brown</sup> ~~Smith~~ and  
he is the greatest Liar of the age - Boyen the man  
who was in my vessel the Cornelia imprisoned  
in Virginia, was in town last week on his way home  
I did not see him - I understand his wife is  
about being married to another man - there is  
a little notice of this in the Liberator of this week  
taken from a Sandwich paper - I think the  
Anti Slavery feeling is gaining ground here but slowly.  
I have exerted myself very much for the last  
month in behalf of Washington Goodell. there were  
several petitions here & we obtained 746 signatures  
mine contained 69 names only but they were the  
most respectable and influential men  
in the City & I sent it direct to the Governor thinking  
he might thereby be induced to look at it; but  
whether he did or not, it availed nothing as I  
see by the Chronotype of yesterday that they unani-  
mously refused to commute the sentence.



There is a strong feeling here against Capital Punishment  
and many strong Whigs here say they will not vote  
for Governor Briggs ~~at~~ next election - it is my opinion  
that the whitecans will make a Capital move  
in the Fall on this very subject - Mr Weiss has  
felt much interested and has preached  
a very fine sermon, which I now send you.  
We have also petitioned the Mayor and Council  
to call a City Meeting, and Mr Weiss has  
agreed to furnish the Resolutions and make  
a speech - Weiss is too good for a Reverend - Theodore  
Parker once addressed a letter to him which  
came here through the Post Office directed thus  
John Weiss, Public Teacher New Bedford - and  
he is fully deserving of it; how infinitely better  
than Mr Prentiss, who about a year since after  
the Murder by Dr Coolidge in Maine, gave a sermon  
~~in~~ favor of Capital Punishment - There are fifteen  
hundred of these sermons of Weiss to be printed.  
I have sent one to Gay hoping he will publish it  
before the anniversary in New York - Our people  
like Mr Weiss more and more, he is entirely  
independent and preaches boldly and  
fearlessly - He is sublimely eloquent at times,  
and though he does not thunder forth as  
Moses did of old from Mount Sinai saying  
"Thou shalt not kill," yet "that still small voice"  
proclaims the new Christian faith, peace on earth  
good will to men, deliverance to the captive  
the opening of prison doors to them that are



bound, that men should love their enemies,  
resist not evil & live in the Spirit of Charity  
which seeketh not her own. Were all Ministers  
like him, you and I would be deprived of  
one of our greatest pleasure in endeavoring to  
reform this "Mundane Spheroid" - You mention  
in both of your letters of Caroline having written  
I sincerely hope she has done so, for I have  
long been expecting to hear from her, but as  
yet have not received one single line from  
her; has she really written me, and her letters  
not reached me, or is it her intention to write -  
Perhaps she wishes "to finish her education" before  
she writes - however I will excuse her imperfections,  
if she will only let me hear from her - I  
should be very glad to correspond with her  
and if I knew how to direct my letters would  
not wait for her - Will you please inform me  
how to direct them - I often think of her and  
Lizzie - I presume Caroline was "very pious" (as I  
used to tell her) when she visited St Dennis - Lizzie  
I dare say is having fine times in Paris she is  
just at that age when one enjoys the world  
most - I wish I could see them soon - I hope they  
will not be so much of foreigners as to forget their  
own language - William Swift often speaks  
of your brother Hervey in the highest terms and  
regrets that he did not come to New Bedford  
and settle - I wish it could have been so, and  
I think it might if you & Caroline had remained.



James Munroe the Watch maker is going to spend the  
Summer at Dr Ruggles water cure at Northhampton  
on account of his wife's health; his own sister has  
been there several months & thinks highly of it -  
giving it the preference to <sup>Braintree</sup> ~~Braintree~~ -

In the last two or three weeks I have been a little  
better, but for the month previous I was mis-  
erable having had the headache all the time.  
Mr Thornton & Mrs Thornton have made us  
a visit of two weeks this Spring, which both  
they & we enjoyed - She is rather better - The  
rest of the family are well - Mrs S. E. Ricketts  
has just come in and is as spry and active  
as ever - Jorey has got to be a large boy, you  
will hardly know him - he is very healthy  
and active - Fanny is very well also, she  
is a little fatigued from House Cleaning  
having been very industrious in that respect  
last week - I should be very glad to see  
Emma before she leaves, and hope it will  
be in my power to do so - If I can come  
down Anniversary week I will, but it is  
rather doubtful. I am & this family are  
all well - The weather is very pleasant to  
day and as it is Sunday I must stop  
writing and improve it by going to ride  
this afternoon with Fanny & Jorey in the country  
and worship Nature - Fanny unites in sending  
her love - Many thanks for your invitation for us to visit  
you - Goodbye I remember us ever Yr affectionate friend  
Elizabeth Ricketts